

David's Strange Memories

This case was described by an English woman to Dr. Leslie Weatherhead, who had done research on "Reincarnation." The English woman holds a university degree in science. The story is about her son, David, who died in childhood. On three different occasions, David showed remarkable, strange memories:

When he was seven, his mother took David to Rome. An archaeologist friend accompanied them to a recently excavated village near Naples. Suddenly David started running about, very excited and happy. He climbed up a Roman bath and knelt down to look at the symbols on its mosaic tiles.

"Here's our bath," David shouted to his mother. "And here's my favourite tile; the one with the bull on it." Marcus liked the one with the fish. Then David burst into tears; he begged his mother to take him away. David kept repeating something which mother could not understand. She only knew that it "had been terrible."

On another occasion, David and his mother visited some caves on the Channel Island of Guernsey. These caves had once been used as a prison for French soldiers. Suddenly David began tapping on a cave wall. He insisted that there was another cave behind and that a man had been walled in this cave. His mother was horrified at her son's idea. "But I watched them do it," David insisted. David was so upset about this incident that his mother decided to make a few inquiries. David then offered the name of the prisoner who had been walled in.

Channel Islands had never visited that house in her present life, nor had she ever been to the particular area where the house was located. Also the two families had no connection with each other and so did not know of each other's existence.

Eventually the Guernsey authorities agreed to tap the cave. They found a door that had been bricked up. Behind that door they found the skeleton of a man. A close search of the local records showed that a prisoner of the name given by David, had served a sentence on the island and he "had died in captivity".

On yet another occasion, David was taken to the British museum. In the Egyptian section he stepped up to one of the many cases and remarked casually that there should be some initials on it. He said that the initials were in a kind of white paint on the underside of the case. To humour him, his mother asked him to draw the initials. David scribbled three Egyptian hieroglyphics. "That was my name," he said. "But you weren't here then," replied his mother. "I was a kind of Inspector," said David, "I had to mark the coffins to be sure they were satisfactory."

David's mother now believes that only the theory of rebirth could explain her son's extraordinary behaviour on each of the three occasions.

The Case of Gnanatillaka

Gnanatillaka is her name. She was born on 14th February 1956 in Kotamale in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). The case started in 1960 when she was only 4½ years old. Then she told her parents, "I want to see my father and mother."

"We are your parents," the mother explained.

"No," insisted Gnanatillaka, "I want to see my 'real' mother and father. I will tell you where they are living. Please take me there."

Gnanatillaka explained to her parents how to reach the house where her real parents were living. It was situated near a tea estate in Talawakele, about thirty miles from where they were living.

The parents ignored their little daughter's strange story. As the days passed by, Gnanatillaka would constantly ask to be taken to see her 'real' mother and father.

Soon the story began to spread. A few professors from the University of Ceylon and Venerable Piyadassi Maha Thera came to know of the story. They decided to investigate. They listened to Gnanatillaka tell her story about the time when she was a boy whose name was Tilakaratna. They recorded all the details. According to the information she gave, they went with Gnanatillaka to visit the house that she had described.

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When they entered the house, Gnanatillaka introduced the professors to the parents of the house. "This is my 'real' father and this my mother." Then she introduced her younger and older brother and sisters. She gave the correct nick name for each brother and sister.

The former-life parents were interviewed. They described the character and habits of their son who had passed away on 9th November, 1954.

When Gnanatillaka saw her former younger brother, she refused to look at him or to talk with him. Later the former parents explained that the two brothers were always fighting and quarrelling with each other. Perhaps Gnanatillaka was still holding a grudge from her previous life when she was a boy.

When the local school master heard the story, he went to the house to see for himself. As he entered the house, Gnanatillaka introduced him as her teacher. She was also able to remember the lessons and homework that the teacher had given her as a boy in the previous life.

Gnanatillaka was also able to point out the graveyard where he was buried in his previous life as a boy.

Gnanatillaka's story soon spread far and wide. A researcher who specialised in rebirth cases, Dr. Ian Stevenson of the University of Virginia, flew from America to Ceylon to investigate the case. After his investigation, he said that this case was one of the very best on rebirth, both in evidential detail and in psychological aspects.